

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106094

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NO, UR, SV

SUBJECT:SVALBARD SYMPOSIUM AND BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL

SHELF DELIMITATION TALKS

REF: OSLO 1678

1. JAMES HEG, NSF, CALLED GJELSVIK APRIL 29 TO INQUIRE ABOUT SUBJECT SYMPOSIUM SINCE NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE WASHINGTON. HEG WAS TOLD THAT SYMPOSIUM IS VERY SMALL AND OF INTEREST ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED IN SVALBARD ON THE OLDEST ROCKS. THOSE ATTENDING WILL BE FIVE SOVIETS, TWO BRITISH, ONE DANE AND TWO-THREE NORWEGIANS. GJELSVIK SAID MEETING WAS NOT CONSIDERED IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO INVITE AMERICANS. GJELSVIK ALSO SAID THEREWOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF OIL-BEARING ROCKS.

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2. HEG NOTED THAT ONE OF THE SOVIETS ATTENDING MEETING,

PROF. ROVICH, IS AN EMINENT GEOLOGIST WHO IS QUITE HIGH IN
SOVIET SCIENCE HIERARCHY. HEG DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSI-
BILITY OF THE NORWEGIANS USING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRING UP,
IN A VERY INFORMAL WAY, THE SHELF NEGOTIATIONS SINCE ROVICH
MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO PUT SOME LEVERAGE ON SOVIET
GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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